

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Original) A protective sleeve for a vehicle shoulder safety belt comprising:
a generally rectilinear piece of material, said material having an outer surface and an inner surface, said outer surface including a quilted, friction-minimizing material;
said rectilinear piece of material having a width of sufficient dimension to wrap entirely around a standard vehicle shoulder safety belt and a length of sufficient dimension to cover a majority of said vehicle shoulder safety belt when the safety belt is extended;
a first strip of self-fastening material attached to the outer surface; and
a second strip of self-fastening material attached to the inner surface.
2. (Original) A protective sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first strip of self-fastening material comprises a strip of hooks and wherein said second strip of self-fastening material comprises a strip of loops.
3. (Original) A protective sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein the quilted, friction-minimizing material is selected from the group consisting of silk, satin, and acetate.
4. (Original) A protective sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first strip of self-fastening material comprises a first half of a zipper and said second strip of self-fastening material comprises a second half of a zipper.
5. (Original) A method protecting a person's clothing while wearing a vehicle shoulder safety belt, comprising the steps of:

providing a generally rectilinear piece of material, said material having an outer surface and an inner surface and a width of sufficient dimension to wrap entirely around a standard vehicle shoulder safety belt, said outer surface including a quilted, friction-minimizing material;

wrapping said rectilinear piece of material around said vehicle shoulder safety belt with said quilted, friction-minimizing material facing outward; and

connecting a first strip of self-fastening material attached to the outer surface of the rectilinear piece of material with a second strip of self-fastening material attached to the inner surface of the rectilinear piece of material to secure the rectilinear piece of material around the vehicle shoulder safety belt.

6. (Original) A method protecting a person's clothing while wearing a vehicle shoulder safety belt as set forth in claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

extending said vehicle shoulder safety belt prior to wrapping the rectilinear piece of material around said vehicle shoulder safety belt;

retracting said vehicle shoulder safety belt after wrapping said rectilinear piece of material around said vehicle shoulder safety belt;

re-extending said vehicle shoulder safety belt with said rectilinear piece of material after said person is situated in the vehicle; and

re-retracting said vehicle shoulder safety belt with said rectilinear piece of material before said person exits the vehicle.

7. (Original) A method protecting a person's clothing while wearing a vehicle shoulder safety belt as set forth in claim 5, wherein said step of connecting first and second strips of self-fastening material includes connecting a strip of hooks to a strip of loops.

8. (Original) A protective sleeve for a vehicle shoulder safety belt to minimize damage and wear to an occupant's clothing comprising:

a generally rectilinear piece of material, said material having an outer surface and an inner surface, said outer surface including a quilted, friction-minimizing material selected from the group consisting of silk, satin, and acetate;

said rectilinear piece of material having a width of sufficient dimension to wrap entirely around a standard vehicle shoulder safety belt and a length of sufficient dimension to cover a majority of said vehicle shoulder safety belt when the safety belt is extended;

a first strip of self-fastening hooks attached to the outer surface; and
a second strip of self-fastening loops attached to the inner surface